

Application Serial No. 10/656,521
Attorney Docket No. 60027.0331US01

Amendments to the Drawings:

The sheet of drawings attached in the Appendix includes changes to Fig. 5. This sheet replaces the original sheet. The drawings have been changed as follows: Reference numbers 525 and 524 have been added to Fig. 5. (See replacement drawing).

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated May 22, 2006. Claims 1-39 were examined in the Office Action. Claims 1-8, 11-27, 29-34, and 36-38 were rejected. Claims 9, 10, 28, 35, and 39 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 9, 35, and 39 have been rewritten in independent form as amended claims 1, 29, and 36 including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 33, 35, and 37-39 have been canceled. No new claims have been added. Applicants respectfully request examination and a notice of allowance in view of the amendment and the following remarks.

Objections

The specification was objected to and a title clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed was required. Applicants have provided a new title as outlined in the amendments to the specification.

The specification has also been amended to ensure that all trademarks are capitalized wherever they appear and are accompanied by generic terminology.

The drawings were objected to for excluding reference numbers 524 and 525. A corrected drawing sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) is attached to the present amendment and response.

Claim 36 was objected to due to informalities. Claim 36 has been amended accordingly to overcome the objection. Applicants respectfully submit that the specification, drawings, and claims are now in a condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102 and § 103

Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bowman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,006,225 (hereinafter “Bowman”). Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowman in view of Chen et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,009,442

Application Serial No. 10/656,521
Attorney Docket No. 60027.0331US01

(hereinafter "Chen"). Claims 4-8, 11-27, 30-34, 36-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowman in view of Chen et al. and further in view of Cheng et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,031,967 (hereinafter "Cheng"). Allowable claims 9, 35, and 39 have been rewritten in independent form as amended claims 1, 29, and 36 including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Thus, amended independent claims 1, 29, and 36 are allowable over Bowman and Bowman in view of Chen and/or Cheng. Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 33, 35, and 37-39 have been canceled.

Dependent Claims

At least because claims 5, 8, 10-28, 30-32 and 34 inherit the language of allowable independent claims, claims 5, 8, 10-28, 30-32 and 34 are also allowable over Bowman and Bowman in view of Chen and/or Cheng.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(404) 954-5100


Murrell W. Blackburn
Reg. No. 50,881

Date: August 22, 2006

